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EXAMINER
LETT, THOMAS J

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2625	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>03 November 2008</u>.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-119</u> is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-119</u> is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>26 December 2001</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible

for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has

been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37

CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03 November 2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 03 November 2008, with respect to the

rejections of claims 1-119 under *35 USC § 102* have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new

grounds of rejection is made in view of Takimoto et al (USPN 6,202,092 B1) in view of well-

known prior art disclosed within 6,202,092 B1.

3.   Applicant respectfully submits that the '092 patent fails to disclose means for notifying a

registered user of the printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use

the printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to the transmission of the request to execute

the specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, wherein the registered user is

unable to set the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus, as recited in

amended Claim 1. Rather, the '092 patent discloses that a request by the client to execute a

specific print job occurs before any type of notification to that user.

4.   Examiner responds that Takimoto clearly discloses a user that has the ability to request

(i.e., a non-print request step S23 in figure 5) access to security data, as taught at col. 1, lines

19-35. Although the user has the capability to read and modify data, see step S24, the user is

not required to modify the information that is accessed ("NO" decision therefore skip step S26

shown in figure 5). This conventional teaching at col. 1, lines 19-35 is clearly analogous to a

user making an inquiry as to the status of the user's print processing authority to execute any

print job. In addition, a user and a print manager can be sitting at the same client while the user

(supervisor) has the print manager query the system about usage, and the user tells the print

manager that he doesn't want his settings modified. The user can view the same display that

the nearby print manager operates and be notified of usage authority. In the '092 patent, a

request by the client to execute a specific print job occurs before any type of notification to that

user, ONLY IF the user is submitting a print job. The user of the '092 patent may also simply

make an inquiry.

5.   Further, Applicant respectfully submits that the '092 patent fails to disclose that the

notification means is unaware of the specific print job when notifying the registered user, as

recited in Claim 1. Rather, in the '092 system, the specific print job is sent to the server as the

initial request.

6.   Again, Examiner responds that Takimoto clearly discloses a user that has the ability to

request (i.e., a non-print request step S23 in figure 5) access to security data, as taught at col.

1, lines 19-35. Step S22 is a print request but step S23 is not a print request. The specific print

job is not always sent to the server as the initial request. This is clear in both figure 2 and figure

5. The reason for the "?" in the print request diamond is because the function is making a

determination as to whether there is a print request or not. This simply means that there is a

possibility of a print request.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

        The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

        A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by
> another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent
> granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
> applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
> 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
> only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2)
> of such treaty in the English language.

7.   Claims 1-119 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Takimoto

et al (USPN 6,202,092 B1) in view of well-known prior art disclosed within 6,202,092 B1.

With respect to claim 1, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system comprising:

a printing apparatus (printer 3, col. 4, lines 7-12, Fig. 1);

a terminal apparatus (server computer 2, col. 3, lines 52-58) for transmitting information

including a request to execute a print job and receiving information;

notification means (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3,

lines 59-63.) for notifying a registered user of said printing apparatus of information on authority

of the registered user to use said printing apparatus prior to the transmission of the request to

execute any print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has

established access to use of said printing apparatus (the user has access to the printer but does

not have access to print a certain document with a security feature); and

a network (network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-36) connecting said printing

apparatus, said terminal apparatus, and said notification means so that information transmission

and reception in the system is performed through an electrical signal via said network.

Takimoto does not expressly disclose a notification means for notifying a registered user

of said printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use said printing

apparatus to execute any print job prior to the transmission of the request to execute the

specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has

established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the notification means is unaware

of the specific print job when notifying the registered user and wherein the registered user is
unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

Takimoto '092 (Prior art disclosure) teaches a server computer informing a user that has
the ability to request (i.e., a non-print request step S23 in figure 5) access to security data, as
taught at col. 1, lines 19-35. The server is unaware of the print job request because the request
was simply for access of information. Although the user has the capability to read and modify
data, see step S24, the user is not required to modify the information that is accessed ("NO"
decision therefore skip step S26 shown in figure 5). This conventional teaching at col. 1, lines
19-35 is clearly analogous to a user making an inquiry as to the status of the user's print
processing authority to execute any print job. In addition, a user and a print manager can be
sitting at the same client while the user (supervisor) has the print manager query the system
about usage, and the user tells the print manager that he doesn't want his settings modified.
The user can view the same display that the nearby print manager operates and be notified of
usage authority. In the '092 patent, a request by the client to execute a specific print job occurs
before any type of notification to that user, ONLY IF the user is submitting a print job. The user
of the '092 patent may also simply make an inquiry.

Takimoto and Takimoto-prior art are analogous art because they are from the similar
problem solving area of print information querying. At the time of the invention, it would have
been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the server feature of Takimoto-prior
art to the server Takimoto in order to obtain a device capable of notifying a user of usage data
without being aware of a print job. The motivation for doing so would be to access usage
information.

With respect to claim 2, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said network is a local area network (network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 3, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said printing apparatus comprises said notification means (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63 and are attached as discussed in col. 6, lines 62-67).

With respect to claim 4, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user (col. 5, lines 15-20) of the information on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus through said terminal apparatus.

With respect to claim 5, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user (col. 5, lines 15-20) to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

With respect to claim 6, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user (col. 5, lines 15-20 and the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30) of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

With respect to claim 7, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting the authority of the user (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30) to use said printing apparatus; and

determination means (security validation portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-67) for determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in a print job transmitted from said terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus, wherein said setting means and said determination means are connected to said network.

With respect to claim 8, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising usage authority management means (print request analyzing portion 22a, col. 5, lines 3-14) for managing the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus, said usage authority management means connected to said network and comprising said notification means.

With respect to claim 9, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said setting means, said determination means, said notification means, and said usage authority management means are realized by a processing operation of a central processing unit (Examiner notes that it is well-known for computing analysis of a system as that of Takimoto et al to be done by processor(s)).

With respect to claim 10, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 7, wherein: said terminal apparatus comprises:

inquiry means (step S21 of Fig. 5) for transmitting to said determination means an inquiry as to whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus; and presentation means for presenting the user with a result of the inquiry received from said notification means; and

said notification means (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving the inquiry transmitted from said inquiry means.

With respect to claim 11, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry when said terminal apparatus is activated (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63).

With respect to claim 12, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry before said terminal apparatus transmits a

request to execute the specific print job to said printing apparatus (print request analyzing portion 22a, col. 5, lines 3-14).

With respect to claim 13, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of said printing apparatus (col. 5, lines 3-19).

With respect to claim 14, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 15, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 16, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 17, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to

use (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6,

lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 18, Takimoto et al disclose a printing system as claimed in claim

13, wherein said terminal apparatus obtains the information on the authority of the user set for

each of the functions of said printing apparatus and presents the user with the obtained

information before transmitting a request to execute the specific print job to said printing

apparatus (see col. 3, line 59 – col. 4, line 19).

With respect to claim 19, Takimoto et al disclose a printing apparatus comprising:

a central processing unit (Examiner notes that it is well-known for computing analysis of

a system as that of Takimoto et al to be done by processor(s)) controlling an operation of the

entire printing apparatus.

Takimoto does not expressly disclose a notification means for notifying a registered

user of said printing apparatus of information on authority of the registered user to use said

printing apparatus to execute any print job prior to the transmission of the request to execute the

specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has

established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the notification means is unaware

of the specific print job when notifying the registered user and wherein the registered user is

unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

Takimoto '092 (Prior art disclosure) teaches a server computer informing a user that has

the ability to request (i.e., a non-print request step S23 in figure 5) access to security data, as

taught at col. 1, lines 19-35. Said server is unaware of the print job request because the

request was simply for access of information. Although the user has the capability to read and

modify data, see step S24, the user is not required to modify the information that is accessed

("NO" decision therefore skip step S26 shown in figure 5). This conventional teaching at col. 1,

lines 19-35 is clearly analogous to a user making an inquiry as to the status of the user's print processing authority to execute any print job. In addition, a user and a print manager can be sitting at the same client while the user (supervisor) has the print manager query the system about usage, and the user tells the print manager that he doesn't want his settings modified. The user can view the same display that the nearby print manager operates and be notified of usage authority. In the '092 patent, a request by the client to execute a specific print job occurs before any type of notification to that user, ONLY IF the user is submitting a print job. The user of the '092 patent may also simply make an inquiry.

Takimoto and Takimoto-prior art are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of print information querying. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the server feature of Takimoto-prior art to the server Takimoto in order to obtain a device capable of notifying a user of usage data without being aware of a print job. The motivation for doing so would be to access usage information.

With respect to claim 20, Takimoto et al disclose a printing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said notification means is connected to a terminal apparatus via a network and notifies the user of the information on the authority thereof to use the printing apparatus through the terminal apparatus (network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 21, Takimoto et al disclose a printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the network is a local area network (network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 22, Takimoto et al disclose a printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising setting means (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30) for setting the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, said setting means being connected to the network.

With respect to claim 23, Takimoto et al disclose a printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 24, Takimoto et al disclose a printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63) notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

With respect to claim 25, Takimoto et al disclose a printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving an inquiry transmitted from the terminal apparatus.

With respect to claim 26, Takimoto et al disclose a printing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 27, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus comprising:

a central processing unit (Examiner notes that it is well-known for computing analysis of a system as that of Takimoto et al to be done by processor(s)) controlling an operation of the entire terminal apparatus;

inquiry means (step S21 of Fig. 5) for transmitting an inquiry as to whether a registered user of a printing apparatus has authority to use the printing apparatus; and

presentation means (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63) for presenting the registered user with a result of the inquiry,

wherein the terminal apparatus is configured to receive information as to the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, prior to transmission of a request to execute a print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, such that the information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus is determined without knowledge of the specific print job (the notification means is unaware of any print job because the notification is only a response to a query of authorized user(s) of the printer 3).

Takimoto does not expressly disclose that the terminal apparatus is configured to receive information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job, prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus such that the information as to the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus is determined without knowledge of the specific print job, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said printing apparatus.

Takimoto '092 (Prior art disclosure) teaches a server computer informing a user that has the ability to request (i.e., a non-print request step S23 in figure 5) access to security data, as taught at col. 1, lines 19-35. The server is unaware of the print job request because the request was simply for access of information. Although the user has the capability to read and modify data, see step S24, the user is not required to modify the information that is accessed ("NO" decision therefore skip step S26 shown in figure 5). This conventional teaching at col. 1, lines 19-35 is clearly analogous to a user making an inquiry as to the status of the user's print processing authority to execute any print job. In addition, a user and a print manager can be sitting at the same client while the user (supervisor) has the print manager query the system

about usage, and the user tells the print manager that he doesn't want his settings modified.

The user can view the same display that the nearby print manager operates and be notified of

usage authority. In the '092 patent, a request by the client to execute a specific print job occurs

before any type of notification to that user, ONLY IF the user is submitting a print job. The user

of the '092 patent may also simply make an inquiry.

      Takimoto and Takimoto-prior art are analogous art because they are from the similar

problem solving area of print information querying. At the time of the invention, it would have

been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the server feature of Takimoto-prior

art to the server Takimoto in order to obtain a device capable of notifying a user of usage data

without being aware of a print job. The motivation for doing so would be to access usage

information.

      With respect to claim 28, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in

claim 27, wherein said inquiry means and said presentation means are connected via a network

(network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-36) to the printing apparatus, determination means for

determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in

the specific print job transmitted from the terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to

use the printing apparatus, and notification means for notifying the user of information on the

authority of the user to use the printing apparatus so that said inquiry means transmits the

inquiry to the determination means and said presentation means receives the result from the

notification means (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines

59-63).

      With respect to claim 29, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in

claim 28, wherein the network is a local area network (network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-

36).

With respect to claim 30, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry when the terminal apparatus is activated (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63).

With respect to claim 31, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry before the terminal apparatus transmits a request to execute a specific print job to the printing apparatus.

With respect to claim 32, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus (see col. 3, line 59 – col. 4, line 19).

With respect to claim 33, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 34, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 35, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so that the specific printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 36, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 37, Takimoto et al disclose a terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of the printing apparatus is obtained (a security validating portion 22b of server computer 2, col. 3, lines 59-63 for notifying a registered user of the authority of user(s) that are authorized to use printer 3, col. 5, lines 37-43.) and presented to the user before a request to execute the print job is transmitted to the printing apparatus (This can be done any time a user wishes to query such information from the database of the server computer.).

With respect to claim 38, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method comprising the steps of:

(a) setting authority (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30) of a user of a printing apparatus to use the printing apparatus.

Takimoto does not expressly disclose (b) notifying the registered user of information on the authority of the registered user to use the printing apparatus to execute any print job through an electrical signal via a network, prior to transmission of a request to execute a specific print job to be printed by the printing apparatus, but after the registered user has established access to use of said printing apparatus, wherein the setting step is performed without knowledge of the specific print job, and wherein the registered user is unable to set the authority of the registered user to use said

printing apparatus.

Takimoto '092 (Prior art disclosure) teaches a server computer informing a user that has

the ability to request (i.e., a non-print request step S23 in figure 5) access to security data, as

taught at col. 1, lines 19-35. The server is unaware of the print job request because the request

was simply for access of information. Although the user has the capability to read and modify

data, see step S24, the user is not required to modify the information that is accessed ("NO"

decision therefore skip step S26 shown in figure 5). This conventional teaching at col. 1, lines

19-35 is clearly analogous to a user making an inquiry as to the status of the user's print

processing authority to execute any print job. In addition, a user and a print manager can be

sitting at the same client while the user (supervisor) has the print manager query the system

about usage, and the user tells the print manager that he doesn't want his settings modified.

The user can view the same display that the nearby print manager operates and be notified of

usage authority. In the '092 patent, a request by the client to execute a specific print job occurs

before any type of notification to that user, ONLY IF the user is submitting a print job. The user

of the '092 patent may also simply make an inquiry.

Takimoto and Takimoto-prior art are analogous art because they are from the similar

problem solving area of print information querying. At the time of the invention, it would have

been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the server feature of Takimoto-prior

art to the server Takimoto in order to obtain a device capable of notifying a user of usage data

without being aware of a print job. The motivation for doing so would be to access usage

information.

With respect to claim 39, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim

38, wherein the network is a local area network (network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 40, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim

38, wherein the printing apparatus performs said step (b) (server computer 2 containing a

security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63 and are attached as discussed in col. 6, lines 62-67).

With respect to claim 41, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus through a terminal apparatus (col. 5, lines 15-20).

With respect to claim 42, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the change is effected (col. 5, lines 15-20).

With respect to claim 43, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the printing apparatus is newly introduced (col. 5, lines 15-20).

With respect to claim 44, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of (c) determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in a specific print job and on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63).

With respect to claim 45, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said steps (a) through (c) are performed by a processing operation of a central processing unit (Examiner notes that it is well-known for computing analysis of a system as that of Takimoto et al to be done by processor(s)).

With respect to claim 46, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

(d) inquiring (step S21 of Fig. 5) whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus; and

(e) presenting the user (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63) with a result of said step (d), wherein said step (b) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus when said step (d) is performed.

With respect to claim 47, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said steps (d) and (e) are performed by a terminal apparatus (server computer 2, see Fig. 1).

With respect to claim 48, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said step (d) is performed when a terminal apparatus is activated (the security data base is recorded on the file device (fixed disk) 23 on the server computer, and only the printer driver 22 on the server computer 2 can modify the security data base, col. 4, lines 45-48).

With respect to claim 49, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 46, further comprising the step of (f) transmitting a request to execute the specific print job to the printing apparatus, wherein said step (d) is performed before said step (f) (print request analyzing portion 22a, col. 5, lines 3-14).

With respect to claim 50, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus (server computer 2, col. 3, lines 52-58).

With respect to claim 51, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said steps (d) through (f) are performed by a processing operation of a central processing unit (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30) through an electrical signal via the network (network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 52, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus (see col. 3, line 59 – col. 4, line 19).

With respect to claim 53, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 54, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 53, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 55, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 56, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus (server computer 2, col. 3, lines 52-58).

With respect to claim 57, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so 1hat the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 58, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 57, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

With respect to claim 59, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the specific print job (print request analyzing portion 22a, col. 5, lines 3-14) which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

With respect to claim 60, Takimoto et al disclose a printing method as claimed in claim 59, wherein said step (f) is performed (print request analyzing portion 22a, col. 5, lines 3-14) by a terminal apparatus.

Claim 61 is rejected for the same reason as claim 38.

Claim 62 is rejected for the same reason as claim 39.

Claim 63 is rejected for the same reason as claim 40.

Claim 64 is rejected for the same reason as claim 41.

Claim 65 is rejected for the same reason as claim 42.

Claim 66 is rejected for the same reason as claim 43.

Claim 67 is rejected for the same reason as claim 44.

With respect to claim 68, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 67, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the steps of:

(d) inquiring (step S21 of Fig. 5) whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus; and

(e) presenting the user with a result of said step (d), wherein said step (b) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus when said step (d) is performed (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63).

With respect to claim 69, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said steps (d) and (e) (server computer 2 containing a security validating portion 22b, col. 3, lines 59-63).

With respect to claim 70, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein said step (d) is performed when a terminal apparatus is activated (the security data base is recorded on the file device (fixed disk) 23 on the server computer, and only the printer driver 22 on the server computer 2 can modify the security data base, col. 4, lines 45-48).

With respect to claim 71, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) transmitting a request to execute the specific print job to the printing apparatus, wherein said step (d) is performed before said step (f) (print request analyzing portion 22a, col. 5, lines 3-14).

With respect to claim 72, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 71, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f) (server computer 2, col. 3, lines 52-58).

With respect to claim 73, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 71, wherein said steps (d) through (f) are performed through an electrical signal via the network (via a network line (not shown), col. 4, lines 31-36).

With respect to claim 74, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus (see col. 3, line 59 – col. 4, line 19).

With respect to claim 75, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) modifying printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing

condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 76, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 75, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f) (server computer 2, col. 3, lines 52-58).

With respect to claim 77, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) modifying a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 78, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 77, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f) (server computer 2, col. 3, lines 52-58).

With respect to claim 79, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the specific print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4, lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 80, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 79, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f) (server computer 2, col. 3, lines 52-58).

With respect to claim 81, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) requesting the

user to modify a printing condition of the specific print job which condition uses a function that
the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user
is authorized to use (the user is authorized to read and modify the security database, col. 4,
lines 26-30 and see col. 6, lines 14-23).

With respect to claim 82, Takimoto et al disclose a storage medium as claimed in claim
81, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f) (server computer
2, col. 3, lines 52-58).

Claim 83 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 1.

Claim 84 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 2.

Claim 85 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 3.

Claim 86 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 4.

Claim 87 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 5.

Claim 88 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 6.

Claim 89 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 7.

Claim 90 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 8.

Claim 91 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 9.

Claim 92 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 10.

Claim 93 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 11.

Claim 94 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 12.

Claim 95 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 13.

Claim 96 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 14.

Claim 97 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 15.

Claim 98 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 16.

Claim 99 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 17.

Claim 100 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 18.

Claim 101 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 19.

Claim 102 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 20.

Claim 103 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 21.

Claim 104 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 22.

Claim 105 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 23.

Claim 106 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 24.

Claim 107 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 25.

Claim 108 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 26.

Claim 109 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 27.

Claim 110 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 28.

Claim 111 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 29.

Claim 112 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 30.

Claim 113 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 31.

Claim 114 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 32.

Claim 115 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 33.

Claim 116 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 34.

Claim 117 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 32.

Claim 118 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 33.

Claim 119 is rejected for the same reason as that of claim 34.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS J. LETT whose telephone number is (571)272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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